United Nations A/55/521

General Assembly

Distr.: General
25 October 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 122

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Eduardo Manuel da Fonseca Fernandes **Ramos** (Portugal)

I. Introduction

1. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 11 September 2000, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 4th, 15th and 16th meetings, on 27 September and on 23 and 25 October 2000. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/55/SR.4, 15 and 16). An addendum to the present report will reflect the further consideration of the item by the Committee during the fifty-fifth session.

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on Contributions;[1]

(b) Letter dated 17 July 2000 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee, transmitting a letter dated 30 June 2000 from the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions to the President of the General Assembly (A/C.5/55/2);

(c) Letter dated 26 September 2000 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee, transmitting a letter dated 25 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/C.5/55/12).

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 11* (A/55/11).

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II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/55/L.7/Rev.1

4. At the 16th meeting, on 25 October, following informal consultations, the representative of Portugal and Rapporteur of the Committee introduced a draft resolution entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations" (A/C.5/55/L.7/Rev.1), and orally revised it by replacing the word "discussed" by the word "requested" in operative paragraph 6.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/55/L.7/Rev.1, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 7).

6. Following the adoption of the draft resolution, statements in explanation of position were made by the representatives of France (on behalf of the States members of the European Union), Cuba, the Comoros, Australia (on behalf also of Canada and New Zealand), India, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Japan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Brazil, Mexico and the Philippines (see A/C.5/55/SR.16).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

7. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Scale of assessments for apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/215 B of 22 December 1997, 53/36 C of 18 December 1998 and 54/237 C of 23 December 1999,

Having considered the letter dated 17 July 2000 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee transmitting a letter dated 30 June 2000 from the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions regarding the recommendations of the Committee on Contributions,[2]

Having also considered the letter dated 26 September 2000 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee transmitting a letter dated 25 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations appending a letter from the Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan,[3]

Reaffirming also the obligation of Member States under Article 17 of the Charter of the United Nations to bear the expenses of the Organization as apportioned by the General Assembly,

1. *Reaffirms* its role in accordance with the provisions of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations and the advisory role of the Committee on Contributions in accordance with rule 160 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

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[2] A/C.5/55/2.

[3] A/C.5/55/12.

2. *Urges* all Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without imposing conditions, to avoid difficulties being experienced by the Organization;

3. *Decides* that Burundi, the Comoros, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Sao Tome and Principe and Tajikistan should be permitted to vote in the General Assembly until 30 June 2001;

4. *Decides also* that Kyrgyzstan would be permitted to vote from 1 January 2001 until 30 June 2001 should it fall at that time in arrears under Article 19;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in order to ensure the sound financing of the United Nations, to review the implications of the calculation of assessed contributions in arrears for the purpose of the application of Article 19 of the Charter at the beginning of each calendar year and at the beginning of the financial peacekeeping period on 1 July of each year, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at the first part of its resumed fifty-fifth session;

6. *Decides*, subject to the outcome of negotiations in the General Assembly on the report of the Secretary-General and the recommendations of the Committee on Contributions thereon, as requested in paragraph 5 above, at the main part of its fifty-sixth session and subject to further decision on its implementation by the General Assembly, to compare arrears with the amount actually assessed and payable for the preceding two full years for the purpose of the application of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations;

7. *Requests* the Committee on Contributions to further consider the indexation of arrears, interests on arrears, multi-year payment plans, early reimbursement to troop-contributing countries and further suggestions for measures to encourage the timely, full and unconditional payment of assessed contributions, taking into account the experience with incentives and sanctions for the payment of assessed contributions of other United Nations organizations and other multilateral and regional organizations, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session;

8. *Calls upon* the Committee on Contributions to give more detailed information and adequate reasons and rationale when making its recommendations.

United Nations A/55/522–S/2000/1028

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
25 October 2000

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda items 66 and 67

Development of good-neighbourly relations among Balkan States

Maintenance of international security

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 25 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the joint statement of the Heads of State and Government of participating and observer countries to the South-East European Cooperation Process, done in Skopje on 25 October 2000 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 66 and 67, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Naste **Calovski**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-71104 (E) 281000

Annex to the letter dated 25 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Informal summit of the Heads of State and Government of the countries participating in the South-East European Cooperation Process

Joint statement

Upon the invitation of President Boris Trajkovski, we the Heads of State and Government of the participating and the observer countries to the South-East European Cooperation Process, Mr. Emil Constantinescu, Mr. Vojislav Kostunica, Mr. Rexhep Meidani, Mr. Petar Stoyanov, Mr. Bulent Ecevit, Mr. Ljubco Georgievski, Mr. Costas Simitis, Mr. Zivko Radisic and Mr. Goran Granic met at an informal summit in Skopje, on 25 October 2000. Mr. Javier Solana, Secretary-General and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union, and Mr. Bodo Hombach, Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, took part in the summit at the invitation of the host.

During the informal summit, we exchanged views on the recent developments in south-eastern Europe, especially in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and their positive impact on the stability and security in the region. Furthermore, we discussed the ongoing process of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe and we stated our strong commitment to its early implementation and to the undertaking of joint activities in the forthcoming period.

Welcoming the presence of the newly elected President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Mr. Vojislav Kostunica, and considering thus the temporary vacancy of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's chair as hereby terminated, we congratulated the entire democratic opposition and citizens of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on the recent election victory and we paid tribute to their firm commitment to building democracy in their country. We expressed our full support for the commenced democratic process in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the peaceful transfer of power, believing that this would be of decisive importance for the further development of the country and for the welfare of its citizens. It would also contribute to the overall stabilization of the situation in the region. We strongly encouraged the commitment of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to follow a policy of good-neighbourly relations, reconciliation and mutual understanding in the region, as well as respect for the principle of equality and non-discrimination of all the successor States of the former Yugoslavia in their mutual relations.

In the light of such prospects, we welcomed the recent lifting of sanctions and the proposed inclusion of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe.

We believe that the South-East European Cooperation Process as a comprehensive framework for cooperation originating from the region, confirmed by the adoption of the Charter on Good-neighbourliness, Stability, Security and Cooperation in South-Eastern Europe, represents a solid basis for strengthening the

cooperation in the region. We expressed our commitment that the Process would assume a more important role in the future development of the region.

Stressing that Europe cannot be complete without our countries and our nations, we restated our commitment towards the European integration process as our strategic goal and as an inseparable part of the overall political, economic and social development of our countries.

Also, we underscored our commitment for further and constructive cooperation on the overcoming and on the resolution of all remaining issues and problems from the past in the spirit of equality, mutual understanding and good-neighbourliness.

Highly appreciating the efforts of the Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, we outlined our expectations with respect to the prompt implementation of the already selected projects from the "Quickstart Package", within the three Stability Pact working tables.

We reaffirmed our political commitment to democratic and economic reforms and regional cooperation, as well as to the consistent and full implementation of all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions regarding peace, security and stability in the region.

We agreed that our common endeavour shall be oriented towards bringing about mature democratic political processes, based on pluralism and free and fair elections, grounded in the rule of law and with respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. We recognized the utmost importance of intensifying contacts and cooperation in the human dimension and in the social and cultural fields, and of strengthening democratic institutions and civil society and facilitating free circulation of information and ideas, as well as of citizens.

We agreed to hold our next regular summit meeting in Skopje, in February 2001.

United Nations A/55/523

General Assembly

Distr.: General
26 October 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 15 (b)
Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs: election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council

Letter dated 20 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

In your capacity as President of the General Assembly, I have the honour to announce to you that Greece would like to relinquish its seat on the Economic and Social Council for the years 2001 and 2002, in favour of Malta.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 15 (b).

(*Signed*) Elias **Gounaris**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-71131 (E) 261000

United Nations A/55/524–S/2000/1035

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
26 October 2000

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 64
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 26 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the European Parliament resolution on the application of Cyprus for membership in the European Union and the state of the negotiations, adopted on 4 October 2000 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sotirios **Zackheos**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-71266 (E) 271000

Annex to the letter dated 26 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

European Parliament resolution on the application of Cyprus for membership in the European Union and the state of the negotiations adopted on 4 October 2000

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Cyprus's application for membership of the European Union, submitted on 3 July 1990 pursuant to Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union,

- having regard to the opinion of the Commission on this application (COM(1993) 313 - C4-0583/1997),

- having regard to the Council of Ministers decision of 6 March 1995, confirmed by the European Council in Helsinki,

- having regard to the first regular report from the Commission, issued on 17 December 1998, on Cyprus's progress towards accession (COM(1998) 710 - C4-0108/1999) and Parliament's resolution of 15 April 1999 on the same subject[1],

- having regard to the second regular report from the Commission, issued on 13 October 1999, on Cyprus's progress towards accession (COM(1999) 502 - C5-0025/2000),

- having regard to the decisions of the Copenhagen (21-22 June 1993), Florence (21-22 June 1996), Luxembourg (12-13 December 1997), and Helsinki (10-11 December 1999) European Councils,

- having regard to the accession negotiations with the Republic of Cyprus, which opened on 31 March 1998,

- having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 555/2000 of 13 March 2000 on the implementation of operations in the framework of the pre-accession strategy for the Republic of Cyprus and the Republic of Malta[2] and to the Accession Partnership with the Republic of Cyprus, endorsed by the Council on 20 March 2000[3],

- having regard to Rule 47(1) of its Rules of Procedure

- having regard to the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy (A5-0249/2000),

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1 OJ C 219, 30.7.1999, p. 448.
2 OJ L 68, 16.3.2000, p. 3.
3 OJ L 78, 29.3.2000, p. 10.

A. whereas the Republic of Cyprus, hereinafter referred to as 'Cyprus', the only State entitled to represent the island as a whole, has made considerable economic and political advances even though the richest part of its territory has been occupied for 26 years by Turkey, a country associated with the Union to which, notwithstanding the above, candidate country status has just been accorded,

B. whereas Cyprus fully satisfies the Copenhagen political and economic criteria, as can be seen from the rapid progress of the accession negotiations,

C. whereas Cyprus can consequently expect to join the Union at an early stage and whereas any objection to its accession on account of the particular circumstances existing on the island would be both politically and morally untenable,

D. expressing the hope that the outcome of the UN-sponsored negotiations will be such as to ensure that the Greek and Turkish Cypriot populations can together reap the benefits of accession,

E. whereas the Union should become more actively involved to help bring about a negotiated settlement to end the partition of the island in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions,

F. whereas Cyprus will have a significant contribution to make to the CFSP,

1. Welcomes the progress made by Cyprus towards accession and urges the legal authorities of Cyprus to continue their efforts fully to incorporate the *acquis communautaire* so as to conclude accession negotiations as swiftly as possible;

2. Notes that, to date, 16 out of the 31 chapters have been completely dealt with and hopes that the accession negotiations will continue at the same intensive pace so as to enable Cyprus to join the Union once the outcome of the IGC now under way has been endorsed by the Union Member States;

3. Welcomes the decisions taken by the European Council at Helsinki not to make a solution to the Cyprus question a precondition for accession; urges the Turkish Cypriots to join the delegation of the legal Government of Cyprus, unconditionally, in negotiating the accession of the island to the European Union, since the Turkish Cypriot community will be able to enjoy the benefits of membership once the political question of Cyprus is resolved;

4. Deplores the lack of goodwill on the part of the Turkish Cypriot side and Turkey to make progress with the negotiations on the question of Cyprus towards a settlement on the basis of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, and with the future constitutional arrangements;

5. Deplores the action of the Turkish troops in Cyprus who, on the eve of a new round of proximity talks, have been redeployed, occupying a part of the buffer zone;

6. Calls on the European Union, through its High Representative for the CFSP, to become more involved in the search for a solution to the Cypriot question and calls for the final political settlement to respect the *acquis communautaire*;

7. Notes that the Union is capable of making a vital contribution to the security of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities within the framework of a peace settlement and the demilitarisation of the island, that the Union can help resolve the problem of the controlled return of refugees and the repatriation of the settlers, and that it can make a dynamic contribution to the development of the northern part of Cyprus, once reunification has taken place;

8. Believes, in this respect, that projects involving the two communities should be instituted and dialogue between the parties encouraged in a new framework of confidence-building measures;

9. Takes the view, finally, that the accession of Cyprus will strengthen the Union's influence in the eastern Mediterranean, thus making for greater security in that region;

10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission, the parliaments of the Member States and the Government and Parliament of the Republic of Cyprus.